

COMMUNICATIONS

The Radiogram

Volume 10 No 2

Spring 2002

The Radiogram has not been published for about a year, due to the editor's preoccupation with other events and activities. Hopefully, it will get back on a more regular publishing schedule from now on. The world has changed dramatically in the past year, and the need for volunteer participation in all kinds of activities has been called out by the Federal government. Amateur Radio operators have volunteered in the past and will continue to serve when and where needed. Thank you to all of you for your commitment and support to the emergency communications mission. N7LSL

Communications Academy 2002 an Outstanding Success!

The fourth annual communications conference for communications volunteers, Communications Academy 2002, was held at the NOAA Western Regional Center in Seattle, on March 23-24, 2002. This year's meeting was an outstanding success, with approximately 240 registered participants. The Washington State Training Mission number for the event was 02-T-065. Approximately 1900 teaching hours were documented through roster signups.

This year there was a large contingent attending from British Columbia, as well as attendees from southern California, Oregon, Idaho, eastern Washington, and the local western Washington attendees. This was an excellent opportunity for volunteers to network and exchange ideas. When an opportunity for mutual aid between jurisdictions occurs, some of the names and faces may be familiar.

A series of concurrent training sessions on various emergency management and communications topics took place over the two days. The keynote speaker on Saturday morning was Tom Carrubba, KA2D, Section Emergency Coordinator from New York City-Long Island, who coordinated emergency communications following the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. His talk, entitled "The Real Thing: Response, Actions, and Lessons Learned in New York City" is available on CD for anyone interested in borrowing it. His talk was presented to a standing-room-only audience.

Other speakers and topics included:

- COAD – Community Organizations Active in Disaster – Pat Hamman, City of Redmond

(Continued on page 3)

South Puget Sound Emergency Medical Amateur Association Formed

The South Puget Sound Emergency Medical Amateur Association (SPSEMAA) is an ARRL affiliated club, whose members share at least two common interests: Amateur Radio and the Emergency Medical Services field. The club consists of a handful of active amateurs who are either career EMT's, Paramedics, Firefighters, First Responders, or are involved in a volunteer capacity. Many members exert their skills through teaching EMT courses, CPR/First Aid classes, or by participating in various scenario-based exercises. Many members are also volunteers with the American Red Cross and participate in the Disaster Health Services function, as EMS personnel at shelters and scenes of an emergency.

The club has a UHF repeater system in N.E. Tacoma operating on a frequency of 443.825+ MHz with a PL tone of 88.5. We are constantly incorporating new equipment and investigating new projects. Our most recent project involved linking the repeater to the Internet via a system called I-link. The gateway has been in service for two months with no problems. Users have reported having QSO's with stations in Switzerland, Japan, Australia, Germany, England, and more. The repeater can be connected to with free downloadable soft-

ware from www.aacnet.net. Radio users can establish connections to other stations, repeaters, or conferences via their DTMF keypad. Our goal is to improve the repeater to encompass the majority of rural and metro Pierce County.

SPSEMAA members have been regularly par-

(Continued on page 3)

Training Meeting Introduction to Mass Casualty Incidents and Emergency Triage King County EMS

**Saturday, May 4, 2002
0900-1130**

**Overlake Hospital
Medical Center
1035—11th Ave NE
Bellevue**

See Page 12.. for details

ARES Medical Services Team Mission Statement

The role of the Medical Services Communications Team, affiliated with the Western Washington Amateur Radio Emergency Service, is to provide vital emergency communications between medical facilities in the community, local governments, and other emergency management agencies during disaster situations, when normal communications are inoperable or disrupted, utilizing amateur radio voice or digital networks, and other appropriate communications media.

The use of this amateur radio network and team is intended strictly for emergency purposes, to support the medical needs of the community-at-large. This network and team will be exercised on a regular basis to conduct training of appropriately licensed amateur radio operators, and to educate the medical community and other user groups and agencies on utilization of amateur radio during emergency situations.

MST TEAM NEWS

Western Washington Medical Services Communications, is incorporated under **IRS TID 91-1869349**. The non-profit corporation provides oversight, training, and fund-raising for all of the Medical Services Communications teams. Grants are being solicited for capital expenses to equip all of the hospitals with up-to-date radio equipment, and for other projects. Donations are tax-deductible.

At the Annual Membership meeting in January, the members present voted to assess an annual dues to voting members of the corporation, in the amount of \$25.00. Dues will provide income for ongoing operating expenses of the teams, such as training, copying, mailing, publicity, etc. Dues statements will be mailed to registered team members soon. Medical Services team members do not have to be voting members of the corporation in order to participate in team activities, but they do need to be registered as Emergency Workers.

Anyone wishing a copy of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws can request one from n7lsl@arrl.net.

Team Jackets Available!!

The new team jackets are navy blue with jade lining and trim light-weight shells, suitable for indoor or summer wear. The team logo is custom-embroidered on the back, and your name and call-sign on the front.

We have negotiated a special price of \$68.00, if we order 4 at a time.

Please contact Marina Zuetell, N7LSL for ordering information or pick up a form at the next training meeting.

TEAM SHIRTS AND HATS

Shirts and hats, with the new team logo are available for sale now.

Golf shirts are available in navy or natural, S to XL, for \$23; XXL \$25.

Navy blue baseball caps – \$12. Optional customization is additional. Call or E-mail for additional information or an order form.

The Radiogram

**Newsletter of the W.
WA. Medical Services
Teams
Published by:**

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Communications Team
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(Comments or address changes
to above address)

Web Pages of Interest

**City of Seattle Emergency
Management and ACS:**
[http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/
seattle/eoc/acs/](http://www.ci.seattle.wa.us/seattle/eoc/acs/)

**ARRL Emergency Coordina-
tors Certification program**
<http://www.arrl.org/cce>

**Washington State ARES/
RACES**
<http://www.sinclair.net/ares/>

**ARES/RACES Oregon Packet
Web site:**
<http://www.arespacket.com/>

**Henry M Jackson Foundation
for the Advancement of Military
Medicine**
<http://www.hjf.org>



ARES of King County has a new Web page with lots of links to local and regional teams.
<http://www.aresofkingcounty.org>

Dave Robbins, K1TTT's **technical reference page**. Excellent source of all kinds of useful radio and technical info:
<http://www.k1ttt.net/>

Vancouver Emergency Communications Team (VECTOR)
<http://www.amateurradio.ca>

Communications Academy 2002*(Continued from page 1)*

- Emergency Management
- ❑ Digital Communications: Evolving Protocols – Ken Koster, N7IPB and Bill Dockstaeder, W7LSK
- ❑ Bioterrorism: The World Since Sept 11 – What You Really Didn't Want to Know – Duane Mariotti, WB9RER, Director of Clinical Engineering, Harborview Medical Center
- ❑ Radio Direction Finding: Finding and Mitigating Random and Malicious RFI – Ray Fletcher, KB7VMS, Boeing Airplane Co
- ❑ Skywarn Program at National Weather Service – Ted Buehner, National Weather Service – Seattle Office
- ❑ Practical Urban Navigation with Map and GPS – Mark Sheppard, N7LYE, IT Manager, Seattle Public Utilities
- ❑ Marine Response and Rescue – LtJG Marc Zlomek, US Coast Guard Seattle Group
- ❑ Terrorism Response – USAR Activation to New York City – Batt. Chief Randy Hansen, Seattle Fire Dept Special Operations
- ❑ NVIS Antennas – Uses in Regional Emergency Communications – Mitch Gill, K7TUT
- ❑ Tactical vs. Formal Communications – Carlos Smith, AA7SB, Radio Officer W. WA Medical Services Communications, FAA Electronics Project Manager
- ❑ Earthquakes in Western Washington – Past and Future – Brian Sherrod, US Geological Survey, University of Washington Earth Sciences Dept.
- ❑ Practical Do's and Don't for Communications Responders – Asst Chief Dominic Marzano, Kent Fire Dept
- ❑ TopHat Competition – Bene-

*(Continued on page 9)***So Puget Sound Medical Amateurs***(Continued from page 1)*

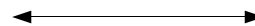
ticipating in Washing Special Olympics events and Red Cross functions. We have been providing both radio communications services and basic life support (BLS) medical services at the various events. Our meetings have been combined with Red Cross meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 1800 hours at the Tacoma-Pierce county ARC. These meetings also satisfy the monthly educational requirements for EMT's and FR's to maintain their certification with the county and state.

The club was originally conceived by Patrick Nicholson, N7WGR with a vision of providing a reliable repeater system to amateurs county-wide in the event of emergency or disaster; A place for amateurs to assemble and perform net functions, and to have a team of professional operators available for deployment to respond to any situation to provide both radio and medical support to local agencies and facilities.

Our goal is consolidate into one amateur group and organize to provide hospital and medical facilities with amateur operators during drills and disasters to establish both internal and external communication channels. Members will be assigned a facility and report there when deployed. In the event of activation, the repeater is in place to provide relay with all Pierce County hospitals, and to the EOC for net operations. Our plan is to become organized and structured like the current Seattle/King County MST, providing the same services for Pierce County. We also plan to combine meetings with the Pierce County MST on a common night. We are also integrating APRS tracking in with our activities.

Please join us on Tuesday evenings at 2000 on the repeater

for our weekly user net and *Newsline* an on-the-air news bulletin. Excluding the second Tuesday of each month. Email Pat N7WGR at patn0011@earthlink.net for more information.



TOPHAT 2002 A Success! **by Tom Cox, VE7TOX, VECTOR**

TopHat 2002, held on April 10, 2002, is the second annual communications exercise conducted by the British Columbia teams. According to Tom Cox, VE7TOX, the exercise coordinator, this year's exercise "went reasonably well." A total of nine teams and 150 Amateur Radio operators participated.

The scenario for this year's exercise was based on the 1962 windstorm (Tropical Storm Frieda) which killed 50 people in Washington and Oregon, and seven in British Columbia.

The exercise is conducted as a competition between teams, with points awarded for achieving specific objectives. The North Shore ARC was this year's winner.

An attempt to use HF for communications between Vancouver and Victoria proved completely frustrating. One of their most experienced operators reported that he was unable to get through on ANY BAND!

Teams in Western Washington have been invited to join in the fun for next year. There will be a couple of planning meetings later this year.

Complete information on this year's competition, as well as last year's can be found at their Web site:

<http://www.amateurradio.ca>



TOWARD BETTER COMMUNICATION

Chris R. Jones, N7ZW

“ROGER DODGER OVER AND OUT”. Remember that phrase from some old black and white WWII movie – maybe it was John Wayne. Well, just so you know, that is NOT acceptable in military communications and never was. But **“ROGER” “OVER”** and **“OUT”** are “prowords” that are commonly used in military and other radio communication and are intended to improve communication over often difficult voice links, to help remove ambiguity in communications, and help to maintain order and communication discipline.

In fact, most of the NATO countries have adopted a standard set of prowords for use on voice nets and other radio traffic and the Medical Services Team leadership decided that this is the best standardized system to use for emergency voice communications. If you served in the military, this is the system you were taught. It is based on a publication called ACP 125 (ACP stands for Allied Communication Publication) and has been used for at least 40 years in US and NATO military communications, and is also used by FEMA, FAA, the US Coast Guard, NASA, and most other federal agencies.

As radio amateurs, you learned the phonetic alphabet that is also based on ACP-125. Later in this article, you will find a refresher on the phonetic alphabet, along with standard pronunciation for numbers and a list of the most commonly used prowords from ACP-125.

The publication, ACP-125, is over 130 pages long and certainly no one in our group needs to learn more than a small portion of its procedures. But if you are interested in the details, go to <http://www.dtic.mil/jcs/j6/cceb/acps/Acp125f.pdf> on the Internet and you can bury yourself in the intricacies of message handling and all its fine points.

For our purposes, it will be sufficient to learn some of the basic terms and procedures and to become just a little familiar with some of the terminology you might hear if you were to work a federal agency, say, the Coast Guard or FEMA, as part of your role as an emergency communicator.

BASIC PROCEDURES

Every transmission should end with either of two Prowords: OVER or OUT.

“OVER”, means that you are expecting a reply, and it is the signal to the other station to transmit.

“OUT”, means that this is the last transmission of an exchange, no reply is necessary or expected.

(NEVER say “over and out” – that is sure to label you as a communication novice, even IF John Wayne said it that way in the movies.)

Under ACP-125 procedures, communications are always “Point-to-Point” or, one station communicating with another station. If you want to communicate with more than one station, you must say “OUT” when you have completed an exchange with the first station and then establish communications with the next station, etc. An exception to this might be when a net control station makes an announcement intended for all stations.

STATION IDENTIFICATION:

We all know that the FCC requires that radio amateurs must identify their station by call sign every ten minutes and at the end of transmission. But, in our group’s communication, we use “tactical calls” such as “Harborview” or “Group Health Eastside” etc. to make things clearer and easier. It is more important to identify the caller’s location than to know (and try to memorize!) call signs in emergency communications. The best thing to do to meet FCC requirements is to slip in your amateur call sign, not using phonetics unless asked, at the end of your transmission, such as:

This is Virginia Mason, ROGER your last message. KD7ZED. OUT.

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(**ROGER**, means, more or less, “received” or “understood”. It does not mean, “YES” or “AFFIRMATIVE”. See the additional prowords discussed and defined below.

Note that on MST nets, stations will identify themselves by tactical call sign, usually the hospital name, at the beginning of all transmissions, but, for ease of operations, two stations in continuous communications with each other may eliminate the use of call signs once contact has been established. For our purposes, having communications independent from coordination by the net control station is rare. But, in such instances, such as passing traffic directly from one hospital to another, the minimum identification by tactical call sign will be once at the beginning of each exchange or once each five minutes. The amateur call can be inserted before the last “out”.

When first establishing communication between two stations, call signs must be exchanged. Example:

Ballard Swedish, THIS IS Med Net Control, OVER

The normal abbreviated response is simply:

THIS IS Ballard Swedish, OVER.

This is the appropriate answer when entering a controlled net as we normally use, or as an answer to the net control station, or any other station, that has called you. A full call exchange with both calls (“**Med Net Control, THIS IS Ballard Swedish**”) may be used as an answer if it is determined that it will eliminate any misunderstanding, however, in most cases, the abbreviated call will be sufficient.

SENDING AND RECEIVING MESSAGES

Before sending formal message traffic, picture yourself with a message form and pencil ready to receive traffic. Then, send your traffic only as fast as you could write it if you were receiving it. If the receiving station must ask for lots of fills for information they missed because you were going too fast, a lot of extra time and effort is wasted for both parties. So, slow down, speak plainly and distinctly, and your transition to being a skilled traffic handler and operator is well under way. By the way, it is a good idea to maintain a some sort of log at your station of all formal and important traffic that you originate, relay, or deliver.

At the end of this article, you will find a listing of many of the approved prowords from ACP-125 along with their meanings. These prowords, when used properly and correctly, will make conversation over the air simpler. Study them and know their meanings as they are used in everyday conversation on our emergency nets. Some have even sneaked into our everyday use and I'm sure you have heard them. One is "**SAY AGAIN**" which is short form for "**SAY AGAIN ALL AFTER**" or "**SAY AGAIN ALL BEFORE**", which are used when requesting fills in a message. The short version comes in handy whenever we encounter noisy frequency conditions.

There are specified guidelines regarding the spelling out of words or names in a message that might have unusual or difficult words or names. You first pronounce the word or name, then state "**I SPELL**", then spell the word or name phonetically, and again pronounce the word or name after spelling. As an example, this is a message going to John Smith. You would transmit it as:

"John Smith, I SPELL JULIETTE OSCAR HOTEL NOVEMBER,SIERRA MIKE INDIA TANGO HOTEL, John Smith".

Although, I would say that, in this case, most of us would not need “John” and “Smith” spelled out. With really standard spellings you might use the term “common spelling” although that is not in the ACP.

PHONETIC ALPHABET

OK, here is the review of the phonetic alphabet promised above. You will note that there is one, and only one,

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“official” way to say each of the phonetic letters. This is “the military way”, but if you try to memorize these specific pronunciations, it may improve understanding of what you are saying under noisy or other difficult radio conditions:

Character Spoken as	Character Spoken as	Number Spoken as
A ALPHA (AL-fah)	N NOVEMBER (no-VEM-ber)	0 ZEE-row
B BRAVO (BRAH-voh)	O OSCAR (AHS-cah)	1 WUN
C CHARLIE (CHAR-lee)	P PAPA (pah-PAH)	2 TOO
D DELTA (DEL-tah)	Q QUEBEC (kay-BECK)	3 TREE
E ECHO (ECK-oh)	R ROMEO (ROW-mee-oh)	4 FOW-er
F FOXTROT (FOKS-trot)	S SIERRA (see-AIR-ah)	5 FIFE
G GOLF (GOLF)	T TANGO (TANG-goh)	6 SIX
H HOTEL (HO-tell)	U UNIFORM (YOU-nee-form)	7 SEV-un
I INDIA (IN-dee-ah)	V VICTOR (VIC-tah)	8 ATE
J JULIETT (JEW-lee-et)	W WHISKEY (WISS-kee)	9 NINE-er
K KILO (KEE-loh)	X XRAY (ECKS-ray)	Decimal Point DAY-SE-MAL
L LIMA (LEE-mah)	Y YANKEE (YANG-kee)	100 WUN-HUN-dred
M MIKE (MIKE)	Z ZULU (ZOO-loo)	1000 WUN-TAU-sand

PROWORDS

Here are some of the prowords specified by ACP-125 that you might hear and could use on our emergency nets and with other stations that use ACP-125 procedures:

AFFIRMATIVE Yes. *(I did not find this in ACP-125, probably because it means the same as “CORRECT”, but, I’m sure we all will understand it’s meaning. “Negative” is in the ACP.)*

ALL AFTER The portion of the message to which I have referenced is all that follows.....

ALL BEFORE The portion of the message to which I have referenced is all that precedes.....

CORRECT You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION An error has been made in this transmission. Transmission will continue with the last word correctly transmitted.

FIGURES Numerals or numbers follow.

FLASH Precedence *(message urgency)* FLASH. *(Will never be used by our nets since the military only uses it with messages reporting initial combat or nuclear attack..)*

FROM The originator of this message is indicated by the address designator immediately following

IMMEDIATE Precedence is IMMEDIATE *(Also never used in our communications since it is used only for “amplifying reports of attacks”).*

INFO The addressees immediately following are addressed for information

I READ BACK The following is my response to your instructions to read back

I SAY AGAIN I am repeating transmission or portion indicated.

I SPELL I shall spell the next word phonetically.

MORE TO FOLLOW Transmitting station has additional traffic for the receiving station.

NEGATIVE No.

NOTHING HEARD To be used when no reply is received from a call station.

OUT This is the end of my transmission to you and no answer is required or expected.

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(Continued from page 6)

- OVER** This is the end of my transmission to you and a response is necessary. Go ahead, transmit
- PRIORITY** Precedence PRIORITY
- READ BACK** Repeat this entire transmission back to me exactly as received
- RELAY (TO)** Transmit this message to all addressees (or addressees immediately following this proword). The address component is mandatory when this proword is used.
- RELAY THROUGH** Relay your message through call sign
- ROGER** This is a method of receipt. I have received your last transmission satisfactorily.
- ROUTINE** Precedence ROUTINE.
- SAY AGAIN** Repeat all of your last transmission. Followed by identification data means "Repeat..... (portion indicated)."
- SPEAK SLOWER** Your transmission is too fast. Reduce speed of transmission.
- THIS IS** This transmission is from the station whose call sign immediately follows.
- THIS IS A DIRECTED NET** From now until further notice this net is directed.
- THIS IS A FREE NET** Member stations may transmit traffic to other stations in the net without obtaining prior permission from net control.
- TIME** That which immediately follows is the time or datetime group of the message.
- TO** The addressees immediately following are addressed for action.
- UNKNOWN STATION** The identity of the station with whom I am attempting to establish communication is unknown.
- WAIT** I must pause for a few seconds
- WAIT – OUT** I must pause for longer than a few seconds.
- WILCO** I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR SIGNAL, UNDERSTAND IT, AND WILL COMPLY. To be used only by the addressee. Since the meaning of **ROGER** is included in that of **WILCO**, the two prowords are never used together. (*That is NEVER say "Roger – Wilco" together.*)
- WORD AFTER** The word of the message to which I have reference is that which follows.....
- WORD BEFORE** The word of the message to which I have reference is that which precedes.....
- WORDS TWICE** Communication is difficult. Transmit each phrase (or each code group) twice. (This proword may be used as an order, request, or as information.) Example: **SWEDISH, THIS IS MEDNET CONTROL; SWEDISH THIS IS MEDNET CONTROL, AMBULANCES HAVE LEFT FOR YOUR FACILITY, AMBULANCES HAVE LEFT FOR YOUR FACILITY, FIGURES ONE TWO PATIENTS, FIGURES ONE TWO PATIENTS OVER, OVER.**
- WRONG** Your last transmission was incorrect. The correct version is.....

All of these procedures discussed here have proven to lead to effective communications management system over the years. These procedures are not intended to be restrictive, but to serve as an orderly means of passing traffic and having confusion-free communication on the radio. The procedures in this article are suggestions and are intended to be a guideline for our group and a lesson in some basic communication techniques that may help us all send and receive emergency messages and traffic more efficiently.

So, go forth and communicate. I would appreciate any comments on this, constructive ones I hope, and any suggestions that might further improve our ability to communicate. My email address is: n7zw@arrl.net.

See you on air at the next exercise. **THIS IS N7ZW. OUT.**

(Acknowledgement: Some of the text for this article is extracted from the USAF MARS Region 5 Training Guide. 2000. Unpublished.)

Editor's Note: Chris Jones, N7ZW, is a member of the Medical Services Team, as well as Army MARS, and has been very active in both. His article is a good review of basic operating practices that most of us need reminders about periodically. While a longer article than usually published, we thought it was worth printing in its entirety.

Lahar Exercise 2002

Amateur Radio Emergency Service 13 April 2002
Pierce County, District 3, CN87
Mission No. 02-T-276

Participation Report

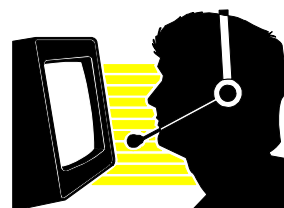
- 1) The following Communications Groups participated in the, LAHAR '2002 Communications Exercise on. April 13, 2002.
 - Pierce County ARES / RACES, District 3, Zones 1 – 6
 - Federal Way ARC – (ECRT) Emergency Communications Response Team
 - American Red Cross – Tacoma Chapter
 - Washington State EOC (W7EMD), Camp Murray, WA
 - Army MARS (Region 10) Western Washington
 - Air Force MARS (Region 5) Western Washington
 - N7FSP, SEA Node: N7FSP-10 LAN (RACES Packet Node)
- 2) The following modes of communications were used during the exercise to test the simplex capabilities.
 - 2 Meter Phone
 - 2 Meter Digital Data (Packet)
 - 70cm (420 – 450 MHZ) ATV / FSTV
- a) Packet Stations:
 - KD6ILO – North Tacoma
 - KD7OPO – NE Tacoma
 - ICC PC Sheriff and WA State Patrol
 - KK7VH – South Hill Puyallup PC – TAC Sheriffs Dept
 - KA7EOC – Gig Harbor EOC, Fire Station No.5
 - N7RHX – OES, Bonny Lake, WA
- a) 2M Phone:

- KD6ILO / W7NTF – Net Control ICC North Tacoma
- KC7EYZ – Alternate Net Control South Tacoma
- KC7IBR / KK7VH – PC TAC South Hill Puyallup
- W7CTV / KD7OPO – NE Tacoma ICC
- W7BBO / K7UI – KA7EOC Gig Harbor EOC
- N7RHX / N7UNO – OES Bonny Lake
- N7WGR – American Red Cross Tacoma Chapter
- KC7VAF / KC7FQZ – Red Cross Mobile 1
- a) 70cm ATV – Amateur Television (Damage Assessment):
 - KD6ILO – North Tacoma
 - W7CTV – NE Tacoma
 - KC7EYZ – South Tacoma
 - KC7IBR - PC TAC South Hill Puyallup
- 3) Here are the following stations whom participated in the exercise assigned by group:
 - Pierce County Zone 1: W7VBO (Mark), K7UI (AL)
 - Zone 2: KC7IBR (Paul)
 - Zone 3: N7UNO (Alan), KC7EYZ (Chandler)
 - Zone 4: KD6ILO (Mario), KD7OPO (Bob), *KC7VUM (Lou)
 - Zone 5: *W7TED (Ted), W7NTF (Gray)
 - Zone 6: KK7VH (Rich), N7RHX (Jim)
 - Federal Way ARC – ECRT: W7CTV (Pat)
 - American Red Cross Tacoma Chapter: N7WGR (Pat), KC7VAF (Cliff), KC7FQZ (Cassandra)
 - Army MARS: KC7IBR / AAR0HU (Paul), K7UI / AAR0MZ (Al)
 - Air Force MARS: KD6ILO / AFA5CY (Mario)
 - SEA Node: N7FSP-10: 145.01 MHZ – Scott
 - Washington State EOC at Camp Murray, WA
 - Pierce County Sheriff TAC

- 4) Traffic passed via packet: 10
- 5) Damage Assessment video sent: 6
- 6) Accidents or Injuries during exercise: None
- 7) Equipment loss, stolen, or damaged: None
- 8) Total Mileage: No report at this time
- 9) Accomplishments: This was the first time that ATV Amateur Television was used for damage assessment analysis for emergency communications in Pierce County. Team work as a group not just ARES / RACES but other local emergency service providers, MARS, Red Cross, Washington State Emergency Management, Pierce County Radio Communications, and ECRT teams not from the Pierce County area. Also the importance of the use of Amateur Radio digital communications as a tool for passing large amounts of emergency traffic throughout the county in a timely manner not tying up voice frequencies. Knowing the limitations of using LOS communications without repeaters and the importance of having Amateurs monitor the emergency net so they may relay traffic or assist Net Control or step in as alternate Net Control. Log keeping was greatly accomplished in this exercise.

I wish to thank all of you who participated in this first training exercise for the year '2002 here in Pierce County.

Mario Badua, Jr. KD6ILO
 Pierce County ARES / RACES
 (ECRT) Zone 4, District 3,



Communications Academy

(Continued from page 3)

fits of a Well-Planned Exercise (a regional communication exercise held in British Columbia every year) Tom Cox, VE7TOX, VECTOR

- Field Communications – Workshop for Setting up a Field Station – Ralph Javins, N7KGA, Washington State Dept of Transportation

Additionally, there were three repeated sessions of a review of the Emergency Communication Course, Level I, sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) followed by an exam on Sunday afternoon. Forty-one individuals passed the first level certification exam. There are two additional levels that may be offered at next year's academy.

Communications vans from a number of different jurisdictions were on display on Saturday. The SEMOC bus was at the site both days. The Association of Volunteers (AOV) group has renovated a large surplus double-bus and turned it into a communications command post available for use for special events and emergency responses. This mobile command post, staffed by volunteers, is available for any jurisdiction or special event to use, for a reasonable fee.

The Academy received wonderful publicity this year. It was advertised in QST magazine, (the ARRL official magazine); the ARRL Web page; World Radio Magazine; the Emergency Communications e-mail newsletter from California; and it was linked to quite a number of local club and team Web pages. King-TV taped and broadcast a segment on March 23, featuring Tom Carubba, the keynote speaker, and Ed Bruette, N7NVP, the Section Emergency Coordinator for Western Washington.

The Communications Acad-

emy has outgrown the facility at NOAA that it has used for the past three years, and may have to find a larger facility for 2003. The organizing committee will begin a search for another site soon. The NOAA Center has been extremely helpful in allowing us to use the facility the past three years. This year was a difficult situation for the facility and the organizing committee because of the unexpected, but greatly appreciated, turnout. The committee has also begun discussions on topics and speakers, and dates for 2003.

The organizing committee would like to thank all of the agencies, businesses, individuals, and teams who contributed to the overwhelming success of this year's Communications Academy. Without the generosity and support of everyone, it would not have been as successful as it was. We hope that we will have your continuing support for future events.



Field Communications Workshop—Ralph N7KGA

Children's Hospital Conduct's Communication Drill

Children's Hospital designed and executed an exercise on Feb. 10, 2002, for the purpose of testing alternative communications, and giving some practice to newly licensed hams on their staff. The hospital also implemented its ICS plan. In addition to staff at the hospital, the Medical Services team up a net control station and assigned operators to participate at Harborview, Northwest Hospital, and University Hospital.

The exercise scenario involved a bomb intentionally set off at Northwest Hospital, on the west wing by the oxygen tanks, causing a major explosive event. Seattle Police and Fire respond to Northwest Hospital. SFD notifies Harborview that there has been major building destruction, casualties, and disruption of patient care services.

Hospital Control announces a HEAR check and solicits bed counts from local hospitals. Through the SFD 800 MHz, Northwest hospital notifies Hospital control that they have 100 casualties that must be treated and over 75 patients that must be evacuated. Thirty casualties are treated at the scene by paramedics and released.

Both the HEAR radio and 800 MHz radio systems become overloaded, and the Medical Services Team is called upon to relay evacuation and transfer information between hospitals.

At the conclusion of the exercise, a debriefing was held at Children's Hospital.

A number of lessons were relearned, as similar issues have cropped up in past exercises, but new operators, and new situations seem to trigger very similar mistakes. We learn from these mistakes and it adds to the body of experience for all of us. This was an interesting exercise.

Around the Region

Ed Bruette, N7NVP, Section Emergency Coordinator for W. Washington announced the appointment of two new Emergency Coordinators this week.:

In Jefferson County, Gary Fell, KD7MWL, from Port Townsend has been appointed as EC.

In Island County, Tom Graff, AD7R, has accepted the appointment of EC. He is recently retired from the Navy and lives in Oak Harbor. Welcome to both of them.



In Pierce Co, Medical Services EC Paul Dunn, KC7QNQ has resigned his appointment due to personal and family commitments. The search is on for his replacement.

RADIO DEPOT

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Dave Roddy, N7KZN
owner



Volunteers – they're valuable!

Jerry Wellman, W7SAR – World Radio Magazine, July 2001

I was monitoring communications as several groups responded to a late-season avalanche and it was frustrating to hear the difficulties encountered as teams used radios in less than ideal conditions. There is so much volunteer communications talent available, it was disconcerting that volunteer experts are politely encouraged not to get involved. It's odd that great efforts are made training in rock climbing and swift water rescue, yet so little focus is made on ensuring that the very best is available for on-scene communica-

tions talent.

Taking Credit

One reason I see as the failure to involve Amateur Radio is our own failure to step up and take credit for what we do. As a young kid, I recall seeing an Amateur Radio operator's picture in the paper in the course of coverage for, I believe, response to severe weather conditions in central Wyoming. It wasn't simply the technology that interested me in radio, it was the opportunity to use my interests and skills not only in a hobby, but to be of value to the community.

Too often as a radio group we adopt the attitude that we're "working" for a particular agency and don't want to take the spotlight away from whoever is in charge. And I am not advocating that we step up and take over, but do a better job of taking credit for our important part of a response. I often advocate that "volunteer" is not an "excuse" for poor quality or "cheap, unskilled labor". It usually offends agencies to point out many of the "volunteers" have a greater depth of skills than the paid agency staff. (Not to mention that many volunteers have greater income and more education)

Amateur Radio is a great American treasure deserving of public awareness. I would encourage you to work with agencies prior to event to ensure you not only receive due recognition but ability to have some input as your community plans for emergency response. At a federal level, communications enjoys a significant amount of involvement yet at state and below, you seldom hear of such.

--Jerry Wellman, our searchin' columnist can be reached by sending conventional mail to P.O. Box 11445, Salt Lake City, UT. 84147, or by unconventional mail (aka e-mail) at jw@desnews.com. (Reprinted from World Radio Magazine, July 2001)

EMERGENCY NETS

Washington State Emergency Net

Mon. - 6:30 p.m.

Sat. - 9:00 a.m.

3.987

Island Co. ARES Net

Sun - 9:00 p.m.

145.25 - /R

King Co. ARES Net

Sun. - 8:00 p.m.

Damage Assessment

Tues – 7:30 PM

146.820 - /R

Local Team Nets occur at various times during the week.

Kitsap Co. ARES Net

Sun. - 7:30 p.m.

145.430 - /R

Mason Co. ARES Net

Sun. - 7:00 p.m.

146.720 /R (103.5)

Pierce Co. ARES Net

Tues. - 7:00 p.m.

145.37 - /R

San Juan Co. ARES Net

Fri. - 8:00 p.m.

146.90 /R

Snohomish Co. ARES Net

Sun. - 8:30 p.m.

146.920 - /R

Thurston Co. ARES Net

Tues. - 7:00 p.m.

147.36 + /R

(corrections to the Net list need)



2002 Medical Services Team Training Schedule

The following dates and topics are planned for the 2002 Medical Services Team Training Schedule. They are tentative and could change due to circumstances beyond our control. Please mark these dates in your calendar so you can plan to attend. Confirming notices will be mailed out prior to each class. Dates of other significant training events are included for your reference

- 1/19/02 Tactical vs. Formal Message Handling – when to use which**
Annual MST Membership meeting – Election of Officers
- 2/23/02 Nisqually Earthquake Anniversary - Damage Assessment Techniques - tabletop practice w/forms**
- 3/9/02 Mike & Key Hamfest**
- 3/23-24/02 Communications Academy 2002**
- 4/2-3/02 WSEMA Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference – Bellevue**
- 4/6-7/02 KCSARA Spring Training Academy**
- 4/27-28/02 KCSARA Spring Training Academy**
- 5/4/02 Introduction to MCI and START triage**
- May ? First Aid/CPR/BBP refresher - 8 hour course \$\$**
- 6/8/02 Simplex exercise and propagation test –**
- 6/22-23/02 Field Day - joint operations with City of Seattle**
- 7/15-26 Possible participation in NDMS exercise—hospital dates uncertain**
- 8/5/02? Summer Picnic – ARES and ACS teams**
- 8/15/02 SeaTac Airport Drill**
- 9/7/02 Net Control Operations**
- 9/28/29 KCSARA Fall Training Academy**
- 10/5/02 Packet 101 – Learning to use digital comms for supply orders.**
Exercise Briefing
- 10/12-13/02 KCSARA Fall Training Academy**
- 10/??/02 Fall Medical Services Team Exercise – Annual SET**
- 11/16/02 Emergency Alert System**
- 12/8/02 Using ATV for Field Operations – hands-on for MCI and Damage Assessment**
Holiday party

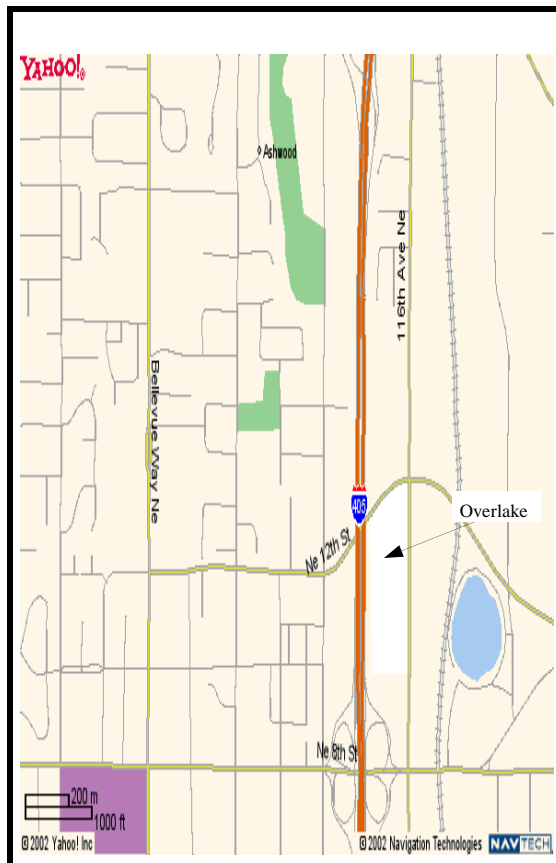


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Training Meeting

Tom Gudmestad, from South King County Emergency Medical System, will discuss Response to Mass Casualty Incidents (MCI), and Emergency Triage of MCI Victims.

Tom will provide information on how paramedics respond to a large-scale incident with multiple casualties, and the methods they use for triaging victim's severity of injury—who gets treated first! This is important for MST members to know when responding to a field situation, for reporting back to hospitals, such as an NDMS exercise or another incident with multiple victims.

Driving Instructions:

Overlake Hospital Medical Center is at 1035-11th Ave NE in Bellevue. The meeting is in the **Board Room**. **Ask for directions at Information Desk.**

Southbound: Exit I-405 at NE 8th St. eastbound. Merge to the left lane and turn left (north) at the first stoplight onto 116th Ave. NE. Turn left into the hospital campus.

Northbound: Exit I-405 at NE 4th St. Turn right on NE 4th St. and turn left on 116th Ave NE. Turn left into the hospital campus.

Parking: When you enter either the North or the West parking garage, you will be issued a parking ticket which will be used to calculate the time you have parked in the garage. There is a small parking charge of \$2.00 for 2 hours.

Talk-in frequency is 146.42 simplex. Don't forget this is Opening Day and Montlake Bridge will be closed!